

Representatives to join me in congratulating the Clarinda Lions Club for their many accomplishments. I wish them nothing but continued success in all their future endeavors.

H.R. 5461 & H.R. 5931

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise regarding H.R. 5461, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act and H.R. 5931, the misleadingly named Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act.

Regional stability in the Middle East and ensuring that Iran is prevented from acquiring a nuclear weapon are top national security priorities of the United States and they are the reasons that, after very careful consideration, I chose to support the JCPOA. That agreement has already dramatically reduced Iran's stockpile of enriched nuclear material and subjects the country to a strenuous verification regime. For all these reasons, I will support the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act and oppose H.R. 5931.

Iran's hugely wealthy and powerful Revolutionary Guard has been identified by leading international institutions, including the State Department, as a driving force behind Iran's sponsorship of terrorism around the world. The Los Angeles Times estimated in 2007 that the IRGC, which was tasked with rebuilding the country after the Iran-Iraq War, "now has ties to more than one hundred companies that control roughly \$12 billion in construction and engineering capital." In a 2012 country report on terrorism, the State Department noted "a marked resurgence of Iran's state sponsorship of terrorism, through its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps—Quds Force, its Ministry of Intelligence and Security, and Tehran's ally Hezbollah."

H.R. 5461 will help illuminate the IRGC's control of a wide array of Iran's assets. The Treasury Secretary will be required to develop and post online in English, and the three main languages used in that country, a list of assets held by Iran's political and military leaders. The list will include a description of how these assets were acquired and how they have been employed. The bill will not only help make Iran's citizens more aware of how corrupt their government is, the reporting requirements may help to shed additional light on the ways Iran's Revolutionary Guard funds terrorism.

By contrast, H.R. 5931 would provide Iran with an excuse to abandon its JCPOA obligations and resume its nuclear enrichment activities. The bill purports to codify the long held position of the U.S. not to pay ransoms to terrorists, but the bill is much more than that. H.R. 5931 would prohibit the U.S. Government from making cash payments of any kind to Iran, even ones the U.S. is legally obligated to make. The most recent payment made to Iran by the U.S., for example, was owed to it as a result of a weapons sale that occurred in the days before the revolution. The U.S. was cer-

tainly not going to fulfill this obligation by sending Iran weapons, so the U.S. agreed to fulfill the contract instead with cash. Additionally, because the U.S. is a signatory to the Algiers Accords, there will be more payments in the future. Under that agreement, the U.S. is legally obligated to comply with the determinations of the Iran/U.S. Claims Tribunal. The recent payment made to Iran was a part of the settlement reached by that body. There are over a thousand more claims pending before the Tribunal.

The JCPOA is not based on trust. It is based on verification. According to the IAEA, Iran has, so far, complied with its obligations under the JCPOA. Faithfully observing the obligations of that agreement, especially the verification protocols, are in the national security interest of the United States and we must avoid providing the Iranians with an excuse not to uphold their side of the bargain. For that reason, I cannot support this bill.

TRIBUTE TO VIOLA AND DARWIN BROCKMAN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Viola and Darwin Brockman of Hancock, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 24, 1956.

Viola and Darwin's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCING THE "APOLLO 1" MEMORIAL BILL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Apollo 1 Memorial Act". The Nation's success in human spaceflight is well documented. Astronauts are American heroes. John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, and Sally Ride. These are some of the familiar names that our children read about in their textbooks.

Unfortunately, success in human spaceflight has come at a high cost. Brave men and women have paid the ultimate cost in the name of space exploration.

On January 27, 1967, Astronauts Command Pilot Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom, Senior Pilot Ed-

ward H. White II, and Pilot Roger B. Chaffee were killed in an electrical fire that broke out inside their Apollo 1 Command Module on Launch Pad 34 at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. Although all three astronauts were posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, it is surprising that we do not have a memorial to honor the lives of the crew of *Apollo 1* as was done for the Space Shuttle *Challenger* and *Columbia* crews.

This bill would redress that unfortunate omission. As Arlington National Cemetery is where we recognize heroes who have passed in the service of the Nation, it is fitting on the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo 1* accident that we acknowledge these astronauts by building a memorial in their honor. This bill would direct the Secretary of the Army, in consultation with the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), to construct at an appropriate place in Arlington National Cemetery, a memorial marker honoring these fine men.

In addition to \$500,000 from the Army's fiscal year 2017 operations and maintenance appropriated funds, the bill provides the NASA Administrator with the authority to accept donations of services, money, and property for the memorial marker.

In closing Mr. Speaker, on the eve of the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo* accident, we have the opportunity to honor these three brave men and their contribution to America's preeminence in human spaceflight. It is time to build a memorial so that current and future Americans never forget their sacrifice.

I am pleased to be joined by Chairman JEFF MILLER and Representatives MARK TAKANO, CORRINE BROWN, DONNA EDWARDS and GUS BILIRAKIS as an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I hope that it can be swiftly enacted into law.

TRIBUTE TO LEONA AND TOM STUART

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 22, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Leona and Tom Stuart of Council Bluffs, Iowa, on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They were married on July 15, 1956 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Neola, Iowa.

Leona and Tom's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them many more. I know my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.